

Coffman Presents Military Service Medals Posthumously

(LONE TREE, CO) — Yesterday, Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) presented military service medals to the family of deceased World War II veteran, Private First Class Ijanetos Poulimenos, who served in the U.S. Army from May 22, 1941 until his death on October 9, 1944. Poulimenos, who served in the Asiatic-Pacific theater, endured the infamous Bataan Death March.

While serving with Company D, 31st Infantry Regiment in the Philippine Islands, Poulimenos was captured by Japanese soldiers and taken prisoner. He survived the vicious death march, where Japanese soldiers tortured and killed countless American and Filipino prisoners. While aboard a Japanese prisoner of war ship sailing through the South China Sea, Poulimenos died of heat exhaustion. His body was thrown overboard.

Thomas Kallos, a resident of Highlands Ranch, Colorado and nephew of PFC Poulimenos, contacted Coffman's office in the fall of 2009 in search of information about his uncle's service record and much needed closure for his family. As a result of the diligent work of Myron Spanier, a Constituent Advocate in Coffman's Lone Tree office, records at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, and the National Archives in College Park, Maryland revealed that PFC Poulimenos' was to be awarded six service medals.

Medals awarded to PFC Poulimenos yesterday include:

- The Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster
- The Purple Heart
- The Prisoner of War Medal
- Combat Infantryman's Badge

- Philippine Campaign Ribbon
- Presidential Unit Citation

“As a U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran, I am humbled and privileged to present these military decorations to a man who answered the call,” Coffman said. “It is my hope that in addition to honoring Private First Class Poulimenos’ service and sacrifice to this nation, these awards will provide much deserved closure for his family.”

Kallos accepted the service medals on behalf of the family at Coffman’s district office in Lone Tree. Also in attendance was Kallos’ sister Elaine Kallos of Littleton, Colorado.



Thomas Kallos (center) accepts a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star posthumously awarded to his uncle, PFC Ijanetos Poulimenos, by Rep. Mike Coffman (right) on August 11, 2010 in Coffman’s Lone Tree, Colorado office. Elaine Kallos (left) niece of Poulimenos, also attended the medal ceremony.

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